



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

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PLANNER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from The Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe. Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.

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To subscribe to this newsletter send e-mail to:

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A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

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www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. EPA OFFERS NEW ROUND OF SMART GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE

Letters of interest are now being accepted for the 2010 round of the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program. EPA, with the assistance of HUD and DOT, is offering direct technical assistance from national experts to communities, tribes, regions, and states that want to incorporate smart growth techniques in their development. EPA is also interested in identifying and documenting innovative solutions to complex problems faced by communities as they seek to incorporate smart growth practices. Letters of interest are due by 3:00 pm April 9, 2010. EPA expects to select up to 4 applicants for assistance this year. For more information, visit epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010_0128_rfli.html.

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2. NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM DOT FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued the FY 2010 solicitation for proposals under the National Scenic Byways Program. Under this program, the Secretary of Transportation may make grants to States or Indian tribes to implement projects on roads designated as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads, State scenic byways, or Indian tribe scenic byways. The Secretary may also make grants to States or Indian tribes to plan, design and develop a scenic byways program. Eligible projects must be from one of the following eight eligible activities: State or Indian tribe Scenic Byway Programs, Corridor Management Plans, Safety Improvements, Byways Facilities, Access to Recreation, Resource Protection, Interpretive Information, or Marketing. FHWA will continue to be more strategic in its FY 2010 National Scenic Byways Program grant awards process by targeting its resources toward projects that provide the greatest benefits. FHWA is particularly focusing on projects that place additional emphasis on livability, or with demonstrated benefits for the byway traveler and invites the application of large-scale, high-cost projects that provide strategic benefits to the byway. The Federal share of the byway project grant is 80 percent.

Please contact your Scenic Byway coordinator to discuss your project before preparing an application. Their contact information can be found at: <http://www.bywaysonline.org/contacts/>. Please visit the program Web site at www.bywaysonline.org.

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Federal agencies, local units of government, and nonprofit organizations may apply to this program, but they must coordinate their applications with their State Departments of Transportation (DOT). The formal applications to FHWA are submitted by the State DOTs, and the projects are generally managed by the cognizant State DOT. Indian tribe governments have the option of submitting byway grant applications through the State or directly to the FHWA Division office in their State.

Link to Full Announcement and National Scenic Byways Program FY 2010 Grants Information:

www.bywaysonline.org/grants/

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3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) 2010 PLANNING ONLY GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Application materials for the Washington State Community Development Block Grant Program's 2010 Planning-Only Grant will be available March 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010 (or until all funds are awarded).

Planning-Only Grants support eligible small communities and rural counties in Washington State in attaining the planning tools necessary to implement priority projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons. Eligible applicants are Washington State cities and towns with less than 50,000 in population or counties with less than 200,000 in population that are non-entitlement jurisdictions or are not participants in a Department of Housing and Urban Development Urban County Entitlement Consortium.

\$400,000 is available for CDBG Planning-Only Grants in 2010, with maximum grants of \$24,000 for single jurisdiction and \$40,000 for multiple jurisdiction applications. In some cases, the maximum grant can be \$35,000 for a single jurisdiction and \$50,000 for a multiple jurisdiction. This maximum amount is allowed only when projects meet all of the following criteria:

- Project must address a public health and safety issue.
- Project is required by a regulatory agency (such as WA State Department of Health or Ecology).
- The community is facing a financial hardship in addressing the issue.
- Other funding has been considered.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

CDBG Planning-Only Grants can fund a wide range of planning activities that address one of the following program priorities:

- To address public health and safety issues.
- To improve essential services to low- and moderate-income persons.
- To complete a necessary step within a broader community development strategy.
- To assist communities in meeting planning requirements that will principally benefit LMI persons.
- To support local planning to affirmatively further fair housing.

FOR APPLICATION MATERIALS AND MORE INFORMATION

Contact Janea Eddy at 360.725.3006 or Janea.Eddy@commerce.wa.gov. Application materials are available at www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg

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4. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE STRATEGY

The six state agencies supporting the development of the state's Climate Change Response Strategy are pleased to invite you to a special kick-off meeting for local governments.

When: Tuesday, March 23rd, 1:00 – 4:00

Where: Association of Washington Cities, 1076 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501-1346. [Driving directions to AWC.](#)

Remote access will be available through teleconference line and a Web-based conferencing tool. To join by phone, dial the call-in number below and enter the participant code followed by #.

Call in number: 1-800-704-9804

Participant code: 34715592#

Then click on www.accuconference.com/join and enter the following information:

Conference Dial In Number: 1-800-704-9804

Conference Code: 34715592#

Screen Name: enter your first name

The development of the state strategy, outlined in legislation passed during the 2009 session (E2SS SB 5560, Sections 10 thru 12) is intended to prepare our state to address the impacts of a changing climate. The Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Ecology, Fish & Wildlife, Health, Natural Resources, and Transportation are working together to develop this strategy for submission to the legislature in December of 2011. Partnerships with local governments will be critical to the success of developing an implementable strategy.

Additional background on this effort is available on Department of Ecology's Impact, Preparation, and Adaptation Web page www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/adaptation.htm.

This Web page also contains important background information on the legislation, relevant resource materials, and will be where details related to the development of the strategy will be housed.

On behalf of the state agencies partnering on this effort, we look forward to speaking with you on March 23rd and very much look forward to working closely with you in the development of the state's Climate Change

Response Strategy. For more information contact Joyce Phillips at 360.725.3045 or joyce.phillips@commerce.wa.gov.

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5. GUIDANCE FOR SMALL CITIES ON DEVELOPING A WETLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

Ecology, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has developed guidance for small cities and towns that are in the process of updating their critical areas ordinances (CAOs). The guidance, called *Wetlands and CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities*, is now available on Ecology's Web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/gma/guidance.html.

This document describes the important topics that should be addressed in the wetlands section of a CAO. It includes recommendations for wetland protection based on best available science (BAS). The guidance includes an appendix that transcribes these recommendations into a format that is similar to that found in many local CAOs. Included in this appendix are definitions that are commonly used in wetlands regulations.

This document revises the wetland-specific provisions in the Department of Commerce's (formerly Community, Trade, and Economic Development) 2003 *Critical Areas Assistance Handbook* www.commerce.wa.gov/site/745/default.aspx. For assistance with other aspects of your critical areas ordinance update, please contact the Department of Commerce's Growth Management Services at 360.725.3000 or visit their Web page: www.commerce.wa.gov/site/375/default.aspx.

The recommendations in the new guidance and the sample ordinance were designed for use in small cities and may not be appropriate for use by rural county governments. Factors to consider are the county's rate of growth, the nature and intensity of land uses in the county, the wetland resources at risk, and the ability of the county to implement its CAO. We suggest that you contact us to determine whether this guidance is applicable to your county.

If you have questions about this document or need additional assistance with the wetlands section of your critical areas ordinance update, please contact Donna Bunten at 360.407.7172 or donna.bunten@ecy.wa.gov or use the following link to find the wetland contact for your area: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/contacts.htm.

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6. PROVIDE YOUR INPUT TO STATE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Washington State Transportation Commission has established a blog to provide an opportunity to share and discuss information about the development of the 2011-2030 Washington Transportation Plan (WTP 2030). WTP 2030 is a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan that establishes a 20-year vision for the development of the statewide transportation system, from state highways and ferries to sidewalks and bike paths, county roads, city streets, public transit, air, and rail. The blog will feature WTP 2030 elements, such as the Vision and Goals, along with specific questions for your consideration and response. The Commission wants to hear from you about your priorities and hopes for the state's transportation system. You can visit the blog at <http://wtp2030.wordpress.com>.

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